

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES November 8, 2004

Chair Darrel Fournier called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:03 p.m. at the DPS Fallen Heroes Conference Room, Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present were Michael Albert, Jack Berry, Jay Bradshaw, Senator Bruce Bryant, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Robert Gardiner (for Art Cleaves), John Dean, Chief Darrel Fournier, Albert Godfrey, Sr., Geoffrey Maker, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Chief Jethro Pease, Charles Soltan, Leslie Wiles (for Bill Williams) and Susan Pinette (staff). Edward Johnston and Steve Willis were excused from today's meeting. Members absent were Representative Patricia Blanchette, John Cannon, Representative Robert Duplessie and David Wacker. Alex McPhedran from the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters and Steve Bunker from E-911, Department of Public Safety attended as guests of the Fire Commission.

There was one correction to the October minutes. On page two "methadone" should be changed to "met amphetamine".

A motion by Harty Norris, seconded by Jethro Pease, to accept the October meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

The Fire Commission recognized Albert Godfrey on his retirement. Chair Fournier thanked Al for his dedicated service to Maine's Fire Service and cited his tenure as secretary and vice president of the Fire Commission. Chair Fournier also noted that Al was a charter member of the Fire Commission as the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighter's representative.

Report of Committees

Fire Commission discussed plans for the March 11, 2005 Blaine House Conference on Emergency First Response at the Augusta Civic Center. The conference is scheduled to begin at 8:00am and end at 4:00pm. Members discussed a variety of topics conferees may find of interest and agreed to arrange for six individual rooms for the afternoon workshops. Tentatively the afternoon session will be divided into two 1 and 1/2 hour sessions, with a 15 minute break. The workshops will be divided as follows:

1. Department of Labor (2)
2. FEMA Grants (2)
3. EMS (homeland security and how to respond)
4. Recruitment/retention (2)
5. Law enforcement (improvised explosive devices) (2)
6. MEMA (2)
7. Communications-E911

Plans for the morning session include a keynote speech (Senator Collins has been asked) and a general session with questions and answers on clandestine labs. Members discussed various speakers to participate in the morning session. Members agreed to allow vendors and display areas in the hallways. Evaluation forms will be offered to conference attendees and a draft will be available at the December meeting.

The Best Practices committee reports they are considering a few candidates to present to the Fire Commission for final consideration.

Old Business

Fire Commission members discussed alternatives for funding a health care study for Maine's firefighters. Members agreed that General Fund revenues be seriously considered as an option and that the Fire Commission should submit legislation in the 122nd Legislature. Staff was directed to contact the Revisor's office and begin the process of drafting legislation. Members agreed the bill's title should read "An Act to Fund a Study for Health Care for Maine's Fire Fighters".

Members also discussed additional potential legislation on the topic of emergency personnel directing traffic during emergencies. Jethro Pease originally brought this issue to the Fire Commission after he received a letter from Hermon's fire chief. Members suggested forming a committee to include members from the fire service, law enforcement, MMA and other interested parties and report back to the Fire Commission with their recommendations. A tentative meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 6th at 10:00am at the CMCC.

A motion by Jack Berry, seconded by Jethro Pease, to move forward with legislation or rulemaking to allow emergency personnel to direct traffic during emergency situations. The motion calls for the formation of a group to discuss the various issues including training and liability. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Commission members had a brief discussion on statewide mutual aid and agreed to review the document distributed at an earlier meeting. The issue will be discussed at a later meeting.

New Business

The Fire Commission will host the second Maine Fire Service/EMS Day at the State House on Wednesday, January 19, 2005. The Hall of Flags has been reserved from 8:00am until 2:00pm and although the Legislature is not expected

to be in session, many legislators will be at the State House for committee and other meetings. The Fire Commission intends to again provide morning refreshments. Organizations interested in participating will be notified and tables will be available. The Governor will be invited to speak and the Best Practice Award is tentatively expected to be presented. Members discussed providing a PowerPoint presentation with fire activity data.

Members agreed to discuss the formation and duties of a Fire Caucus at the December meeting.

For planning purposes, the next three meetings of the Fire Commission are:

Monday, December 6 th	DPS Fallen Heroes conference room	1pm
Monday, January 3 rd	State House	1pm
Monday, February 7 th	State House	1pm

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Fournier adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pinette
Staff